

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04359 291210Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1920

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 2923

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PORG, WA, SF

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: MEDIA REPORTS ON BOTHA INTERVIEW IN NEW YORK

1. "RAND DAILY MAIL" JULY 29 CARRIES FOLLOWING PAGE ONE
STORY BY RICHARD WALKER ON BOTHA INTERVIEWS IN NEW YORK
AND OTHER REPORTS CENTERING ON QUESTION OF SAG AGREEMENT
TO COMMENCEMENT OF UN OPERATION IN NAMIBIA.

2. TEXT OF WALKER STORY: QUOTE:

"UN BOWS TO BOTHA WARNING"

"SOUTH AFRICA YESTERDAY HELD BACK FINAL ACCEPTANCE
OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA INDEPENDENCE OPERATION AND WARNED
THAT THE UN MISSION OPERATIONS CHIEF, MR. MARTTI AHTISAARI,
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04359 291210Z

IS NOT WELCOME IN THE TERRITORY AT THIS STAGE.

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL DR. KURT WALDHEIM, HAD SAID
EARLIER THAT MR. AHTISAARI WAS TO LEAVE FOR THE TERRI-
TORY WITHIN A WEEK -- BUT LATE LAST NIGHT THE UN
BOWED TO THE WARNING BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MR. PIK BOTHA.

UN OFFICIALS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE AHTISSARI

MISSION WILL NOT LEAVE UNTIL THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT GIVES THE GREEN LIGHT. A CABINET DECISION MIGHT BE REACHED WITHIN A WEEK.

ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF MR. AHTISAARI DID ARRIVE, MR. BOTHA SAID HIS AIRCRAFT WOULD BE REFUELLED SO HE COULD RETURN TO NEW YORK.

AS MR. BOTHA LASKED OUT IN INTERVIEWS IN WHICH HE ACCUSED THE WEST OF CHEATING SOUTH AFRICA IN THE PROPOSALS ACCEPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SWAPO INDICATED IN WINDHOOEK IT WAS READY TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

MARTIN SCHNEIDER, "MAIL" POLITICAL EDITOR, WRITES THAT SETTLEMENT PROSPECTS IMPROVED YESTERDAY WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. VORSTER, CLEARED DAYS OF CONFUSION OVER WALVIS BAY BY SUGGESTING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON THE DISPUTED PORT WITH A "FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT" IN THE TERRITORY.

BUT IN NEW YORK, MR. BOTHA INDICATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH A FUTURE NAMIBIA GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LIMITED TO DISCUSSIONS OVER ITS USE.

IT WAS SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO USE IT, HE SAID.

MR. BOTHA WAS DUE TO FLY HOME LAST NIGHT AND REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO MR. VORSTER. THE CABINET WILL MEET ON TUESDAY.

HE TOLD ONE INTERVIEWER THAT HIS PRESENT INCLINATION WAS TO ADVISE AGAINST ACCEPTANCE, THOUGH HIS ATTITUDE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 04359 291210Z

MIGHT CHANGE.

BUT SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS IN MR. BOTHA'S PARTY WERE CONTINUING TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS WITH MR. AHTISAARI'S OFFICE THROUGHOUT YESTERDAY, ACCORDING TO WELL-INFORMED SOURCES.

THE WEST IS ADAMANT THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS ACCEPTED AND WILL COMPLY WITH THURSDAY NIGHT'S HISTORIC UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE AUTHORIZING THE FIRST PHASE OF UN-POLICED INDEPENDENCE.

BUT SOUTH AFRICAN SOURCES DESCRIBED MR. VORSTER AS "EXTREMELY WORRIED" AND SAID THE DECISION WAS IN THE BALANCE BECAUSE OF THE RESOLUTION AND UNANIMOUS COUNCIL DECLARATION THAT WALVIS BAY MUST BE QUICKLY REINTEGRATED WITHIN THE TERRITORY.

'WE AREN'T PREPARED TO DO BUSINESS ON THIS BASIS,' MR. BOTHA RAGED. 'WE HAVE BEEN LET DOWN BADLY. I FEEL THAT WE HAVE BEEN CHEATED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER FOUR WESTERN POWERS.'

IN HIS CAREFULLY-WORDED STATEMENT ISSUED IN PRETORIA YESTERDAY, MR. VORSTER SAID: 'TO NEGOTIATE WITH A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA ON THE HARBOUR AND ITS USE IS ONE MATTER AND SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, BUT TO

MAKE DEMANDS AND TO LINK THSE DEMANDS WITH A
SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA IS A DIFFERENT MATTER
WHICH IS UNCONDITIONALLY REJECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.'

HIS STATEMENT ACCORDED WITH THE STAND OF THE
WESTERN FIVE: THAT WALVIS BAY LEGALLY BELONGS TO SOUTH
AFRICA, WHICH HAS THE RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE THE FUTURE OF THE PORT
WITH AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA.

IN WINDHOEK YESTERDAY, SWAPO INFORMATION SECRETARY,
MR. MOKGANEDI THLABANELLO, SAID SWAPO WAS NOW READY TO IMPLEMENT
THE WESTERN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS.
BUT, HE ADDED, SWAPO WASNOT HOPEFUL THAT SOUTH
AFRICA WOULD LEND ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE SETTLEMENT
PLAN.

'I AM NOT HOPEFUL THAT MR. VORSTER WILL COOPERATE
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PAGE 04 PRETOR 04359 291210Z

IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS.'

'ALREADY THERE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT
SWAPO, AND I EXPECT THAT THESE ATTEMPTS WILL BE ESCALATED
IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.' END TEXT.

3. SABC RADIO NEWS THIS MORNING CARRIED ADDITIONAL
REPORT THAT BOTHA ALSO ASSERTED TO MEDIA THE USG HAD
"FINANCED" SWAPO PRESENCE (HE DID NOT SAY WHERE) AND
PRESUMABLY THE US CONGRESS WAS AWARE THAT US TREASURY
FUNDS WERE GOING TO SWAPO FOR THIS PURPOSE.
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